

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 01636 302118Z
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AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 1636

E.9. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: RAU'S GOVERNMENT DECLARATION FOR NRW.

REF: DUSSELDORF 1583

1. SUMMARY: COMBATting UNEMPLOYMENT, PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PROTECTING THE ECOLOGY AND CREATING A "REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RUHR" AS A PERMANENT DISCUSSION VEHICLE FOR PROBLEMS OF THE COAL AND STEEL AREAS WERE THE MAJOR POINTS OF MINISTER PRESIDENT RAU'S GOVERNMENT DECLARATION. FOR THE REMAINING 20 MONTHS OF THE TENURE OF THE SPD/FEP COALITION RAU ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF PROJECTS, AMONG WHICH A LAW DESIGNED TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC PROMOTION MEASURES. FURTHERMORE RAU ADVOCATES MORE DIALOGUE WITH CITIZEN, AND
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DUSSEL 01636 302118Z

YOUTH GROUPS. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHALL BE DEVOTED TO GROUPS SUCH AS THE HANDICAPPED WHICH ARE HARD TO ORGANIZE AND WHICH HAVE NO INFLUENTIAL LOBBY. HE PROMISED TO SUPPORT THE BONN GOVERNMENT COALITION AND TO TAKE OPPOSITION VIEWS SERIOUSLY.
END SUMMARY

2. ONE WEEK AFTER HIS ELECTION (SEE REFTEL) NORTHRHINE-

WESTPHALIAN (NRW) MINISTER PRESIDENT JOHANNES RAU (SPD)
DELIVERED THE GOVERNMENT DECLARATION FOR THE REMAINING 20
MONTHS OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE TO THE NRW STATE PARLIAMENT
ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1978. WITH A LAUDATIO ON HIS
PREDECESSOR HEINZ KUEHN, RAU MADE THE DECLARATION SUMMARIZED

3. THE SUCCESSFUL POLICY OF THE SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT COALITION
SHALL BE CONTINUED. THE GOOD AND FAIR PARTNERSHIP OF BOTH
PARTIES WILL BE CONSOLIDATED AND CONTINUED, ESPECIALLY WITH
THE INTENTION TO LEND NRW SUPPORT TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
COALITION. THE LAND GOVERNMENT, SUPPORTED BY THE COALITION
PARTIES, WILL WARD OFF ANY ATTACKS ON FREEDOM AND LIBERA-
LISM, INCLUDING ON THE MEDIA THE GOVERNMENT IS SOLICITING
THE COOPERATION OF ALL SOCIAL GROUPS SUCH AS CHURCHES, TRADE
UNIONS AND EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS.

4. ECONOMIC GROWTH, AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN COMBATTING
UNEMPLOYMENT, IS LIMITED BY ECOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS AND THE
AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. THE FOREMOST OBJECTIVE OF THE
GOVERNMENT WILL BE TO RETAIN EXISTING JOBS AND TO CREATE
NEW JOBS. THE EFFECT OF A GRADUAL WORKING TIME REDUCTION
ON THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IS TO BE INVESTIGATED.

5. THE NRW BUDGET POLICY WILL BE CHIEFLY CONCERNED WITH
THIS PROBLEM AND WILL PROVIDE INVESTMENT INCENTIVES AND
ASSISTANCE FOR WEAKER INDUSTRIES. THE LAND GOVERNMENT WILL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DUSSEL 01636 302118Z

SUPPORT THE FISCAL POLICY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN SUCH
A WAY THAT AN ADEQUATE INCOME OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS
IS GUARANTEED.

6. ECONOMIC PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHTENING THANKS TO A STABLE
CURRENCY AND A DECREASING INFLATION RATE. HOWEVER LABOR
MARKET DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUE TO REMAIN UNSATISFACTORY,
PARTICULARLY IN THE RUHR. YOUTH ENEMPLOYMENT COULD BE REDUCED
BUT THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF THE HANDICAPPED, SENIOR
CITIZENS, WOMEN, FOREIGNERS AND UNSKILLED LABOR REMAINS POOR.
INCREASED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC
STRUCTURE SHALL CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. TO
DEAL WITH THE PARTICULARLY SERIOUS SITUATION OF THE RUHR
AREA, A REGIONAL RUHR COMMITTEE WILL BE CREATED AS A
PERMANENT DISCUSSION PLATFORM FOR THE PROBLEMS IN THAT AREA,
PARTICULARLY IN THE STEEL AND COAL INDUSTRIES.

7. THE NRW GOVERNMENT REGARDS COAL AS A PRIMARY SOURCE
OF DOMESTIC ENERGY AND WILL ASSIST COAL MINING TO OVERCOME
ITS PRESENT SALES PROBLEMS. NEW COAL FUELLED POWER PLANTS
ARE TO BE BUILT COMBINING NECESSARY ECOLOGY PROTECTION AND
ENERGY POLICY REQUIREMENTS. NUCLEAR POWER SHALL ONLY BE

EMPLOYED WHERE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY; SAFETY OF NUCLEAR PLANTS HAS ABSOLUTE PRIORITY AND THE WASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED. THE UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR PROCESS HEAT FOR COAL GASIFICATION WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE.

8. EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH WILL REMAIN HIGHLY IMPORTANT TASKS FOR THE LAND GOVERNMENT. MANIFOLD OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE OFFERED IN THESE FIELDS, PARTICULARLY WITH A VIEW TO TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTHS. RESTRICTIONS ATTENDING TO UNIVERSITIES SHALL BE REDUCED. RESEARCH SHALL PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO HUMANE WORKING CONDITIONS.

9. THE POLITICAL AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IS PARTICULARLY STRONG IN THE RUHR. IN THIS AREA SIGNIFICANT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 DUSSEL 01636 302118Z

PROGRESS TOWARDS AN IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN MADE. IN 1963 ABOUT 312,000 TONS OF DUST CAME DOWN IN THE RUHR. BY 1976 THIS FIGURE HAS BEEN HALVED AND SULPHUR-DIOXIDE HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 40 PERCENT BUT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE NECESSARY. WATER POLLUTION MUST BE FURTHER REDUCED AND THE RECYCLING OF WASTES AND GARBAGE MUST BE PROMOTED. ALL THIS MUST BE ACHIEVED UNDER THE ASPECT THAT AN ADEQUATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MUST ALSO BE POSSIBLE IN HIGHLY EXPOSED AREAS.

10. THE GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED TO OPPOSE LEFTIST-EXTREMIST GROUPS RESOLVED TO UNDERMINE THE CONSTITUTION OR PREACHING AND PRACTICING VIOLENCE. THE SAME APPLIES TO NEW-NAZIST ACTIVITIES. ENEMIES OF THE CONSTITUTION MUST NOT BE EMPLOYED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, BUT STRICT LEGALITY IS TO BE OBSERVED IN SCREENING APPLICANTS. THE GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO GUARANTEE INTERNAL SECURITY BUT THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE PROTECTION AGAINST INSIDUOUS TERRORIST MURDERERS, WHO ARE UNABLE TO CONCEIVE THAT THE MILLENNIUM CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITH BOMBS AND PISTOLS.

11. THE LAND GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED TO MAINTAIN THE PUBLICLY OWNED RADIO AND TV SYSTEMS, TO GUARANTEE THEIR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OPINION AND TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST INADMISSIBLE INTERFERENCE OF THIRD PARTIES.

12. GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS ABOUT THE RIGHT POLICY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION BUT THIS MUST NOT LEAD TO AN IMPLACABLE CONFRONTATION. THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED ALSO TO COOPERATE WITH THE OPPOSITION AND WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ITS ARGUMENTS.

13. COMMENTS: RAU'S GOVERNMENT DECLARATION DID NOT CONTAIN ANYTHING SENSATIONAL BUT IS REMARKABLE FOR ITS OPTIMISM, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 DUSSEL 01636 302118Z

ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS. OBVIOUSLY ALL NRW
MINISTRIES HAVE MADE THEIR CONTRIBUTION. OPPOSITION LEADER
HEINRICH KOEPPLER (CDU) CALLED THE DECLARATION POOR AND
A LISTING OF WELL KNOWN PROBLEMS, WHICH GAVE RISE TO SERIOUS
CONCERN. THE NRW STATE ORGANIZATION OF THE GERMAN TRADE
UNION FEDERATION (DGB) DISCOVERED POSITIVE SIGNS IN THE
DECLARATION WHICH HAD TO BE FOLLOWED UP BY SERIOUS ACTION.
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